

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

After the last page of the claims on page 41, insert as separately number page 42 the following abstract:

**METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR CORRECTION OF
CARDIAC CONDUCTION DISTURBANCES**

The invention provides methods for establishing electrical coupling between cardiomyocytes and recombinant cells which have been genetically engineered to express a connexin protein such as connexin 43 (Cx43) protein. The invention is based on the discovery that genetic modification of skeletal muscle cells to express a recombinant connexin, enables the genetically modified cells to establish electrocommunication with cardiac cells via gap junctions. The recombinant connexin-expressing cells can be used for repair of cardiac tissue and for treatment of cardiac disease by transplantation into cardiac tissue.